

REMARKS

In her last office action the Examiner rejected Claims 1 – 39 as indefinite under 35 USC § 112, rejected Claims 1 – 10, 18 – 29 and 37 – 38 as obvious in view of a combination of Oriol et al. US 2001/0014776 (“Oriol ‘776) and Nagel US 4,211,237 (“Nagel”), rejected Claims 12 – 14 and 31 – 33 as obvious in view of a combination of Oriol ‘776, Nagel and Beach et al. US 5,088,498, and rejected Claims 15 – 17, 20, 34 – 35 and 39 as obvious in view of a combination of Oriol ‘776, Nagel and Oriol US 5,596,993. The above amendments are intended to address the first rejection only. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 22 such that apparatus Claim 1 clearly recites structure, and method Claim 22 clearly recites method steps. Support for these amendments can be found in the specification at page 12 line 25 – page 13 line 20, and page 16 line 17 – page 17 line 4. Applicants solicit the Examiner’s entry of these Amendments and respectfully submit that they overcome the Examiner’s 35 USC § 112 rejections.

Applicants continue to disagree with the Examiner’s characterizations of the contents of the cited art and whether those contents would have made the claimed invention obvious. Accordingly, and since the Examiner has twice rejected Applicants’ claims in view of this prior art despite Applicants’ arguments to the contrary, Applicants are filing a Notice of Appeal to the USPTO Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences concurrently with this Reply.

This Reply to Office Action is being submitted with a fee for a two month extension of time and a fee for filing a Notice of Appeal to the USPTO Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences. The Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 503982 of Momkus McCluskey, LLC to overcome any deficiency or to credit this account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

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